

PROMISES MADE AND BROKEN ON EDUCATION

What President Bush and the GOP promised on education vs. what they are really trying to do

Program	Promise Made By “No Child Left Behind”	Promise Broken by President Bush and GOP
Title I	Promises to fund 40% of national average per pupil for low-income students. For the 2003 school year, that payment would be about \$2800 per poverty level student.	President proposed <i>slashing 82% of the proposed growth of Title I</i> . Instead of a \$5.65 billion increase in Title I called for in “No Child Left Behind” the President's budget provided an increase of only \$1 billion - with most of that \$1 billion “increase” coming through terminations of other programs directed at the same needy schools.
English Education	Mandated for the first time that all children who have apparent difficulty speaking English must be formally assessed on an annual basis in order to determine what instructional services each may require to meet academic standards; provides an open-ended authorization to allow the federal government to provide increased support to local schools.	Bush proposes freezing funding for English language training programs, meaning schools will have no new federal funding to educate the estimated 300,000 new students with English assistance needs expected in the next school year. With inflation and enrollment growth, the Bush budget equates to <i>a cut of almost 10% per child</i> for educating non-English proficient students.
Special Education	IDEA mandates that the federal government pay for 40% of the average cost of educating a child with no disabilities, that payment would be about \$3000 per student this year. This goal could be met by 2009 with a 20% annual increase in the federal contribution to special education.	President Bush's budget comes up half a billion dollars short of maintaining the 20% average increase for special education between 2000-2002. The rate of growth for special education funding in the President's budget is less than two-thirds of the average rate of the last three years and, if continued, will <i>delay reaching the goal of full funding by at least four years.</i>
Homeless Children	Promised increased funding for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program to permit schools to reach out to homeless children, and provide transportation and other support services for them to attend and succeed in school. The “No Child Left Behind” authorization would expand services to an additional 130,000 homeless children.	Bush budget proposes to freeze the homeless education program Because of inflation, about <i>8000 fewer homeless children will receive help next year due to the Bush budget freeze.</i>
After School Centers	Promised \$1.5 billion for after school centers in fiscal year 2003 - 50% above current levels and enough to enroll an additional 580,000 children into after school centers.	Bush budget freezes funding for after school programs, providing no adjustment for inflation or for increased applications for assistance from local school districts. The Bush budget would result in <i>50,000 children being eliminated from participation in after school programs.</i>
Teacher Training	Promised increased funding to help school districts meet the mandate that all teachers in core academic subjects be “highly qualified” by the end of the 2005-2006 school year.	The Bush budget freezes funding for the Teacher Quality State Grant Program, the primary federal program designed to help teachers meet these new qualifications. This amount is \$71 million below the amount needed to offset inflation and \$404 million below the “No Child Left Behind” authorization. The Bush budget would support only about 316,000 teachers – <i>about 92,000 below the level supported in “No Child Left Behind” and 16,000 fewer than in the current year.</i>
School Libraries	Created a new program, Literacy Through School Libraries, to help students enhance their reading and literacy skills through improved libraries; promised \$256 million in fiscal year 2003 for the school library program, meaning as many as 513 school districts would be helped.	The Bush budget proposed funding the new program in “No Child Left Behind” at only 5% of the level promised (\$12.5 million). Under the Bush request, funding would be sufficient to buy an average of five new library books for only about 124,000 children - <i>2.4 million fewer children than under the “No Child Left Behind.”</i>
School Reform	Authorized additional funds for the Comprehensive School Reform Program, using effective, research-based and school-wide reforms. At an event touting the program, Bush said, “The federal government has responsibilities. Generally, that responsibility is to write a healthy check.”	The Bush budget <i>slashes \$75 million (24%) out of comprehensive school reform grants compared to last year’s level.</i> If the President had only provided inflation-adjusted funding for the Comprehensive School Reform Program, it would have allowed an additional 1,200 schools enrolling approximately 642,000 students to restructure their schools. Under the budget that was submitted, those children will be left behind.